

Wycombe find the Avenue too experienced

Sports Mail Special Report

WALTHAMSTOW A. 3 : WYCOMBE W. 1

WALTHAMSTOW were much too experienced for Wycombe Wanderers in their Isthmian League game at Green Pond Road this afternoon, and thoroughly deserved their 3—1 win. Wycombe made one change from their selected team, this was at centre forward, where Jimmy Hay came in for Peter James, who is still suffering from influenza.

Walthamstow Avenue: McGuire; Betts, L. Harvey; Andrews, Prince, Edwards; Groves, Minall, Lewis; Stone, G. Harvey.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Gale, Ashby; Worley, Howson, Hay, Blair, Horseman.

Referee: H. E. Jones (Oxford).

Walthamstow took only two minutes to score when right winger Groves crossed for Minall to head on to Jim Lewis and LEWIS shot easily past Brown.

Walthamstow kept pressing and crosses from the two wingers always troubled the Wycombe defence.

Minall slid an accurate pass through for Groves but he shot just wide.

Wycombe recovered, however, and a shot by Hay was well saved by McGuire.

McGuire again saved well when a Horseman shot looked set for goal. Worley and Howson carved out an opening but Beck shot just over the bar.

Walthamstow then had Wycombe in trouble when a Harvey centre was misjudged by Brown, but Lewis headed off the line.

Wycombe's new combination was settling down well but Walthamstow looked the more dangerous when attacking.

After 30 minutes J. Lewis centred and the ball was neatly headed on to MINNALL, who scored Walthamstow's second.

Jim Lewis again showed his class when putting Stone through, but Beck cleared.

Half-time: Walthamstow 2, Wycombe W. 0.

Walthamstow opened the second half with a bang, and Brown twice made brilliant saves. But Wycombe came back and Howson, showing great determination in his first senior game of the season, had a good shot well saved by McGuire.

After a good run, Gale put Hay through but he shot weakly. Walthamstow increased their lead after 23 minutes play when left-half EDWARDS scored from just outside the penalty area.

NO JOKING

There was a brief interlude of fun while a dog was escorted off the pitch but Walthamstow were in no joking mood and soon swept back into the attack.

But it was Wycombe who scored when, with a quarter of an hour to go, right back BECK scored a fine goal with a shot that rocketed into the net from just outside the area.

In Wycombe's last attack Worley split the home defence but Hay shot over from about six yards.

RESULT:

WALTHAMSTOW 3
WYCOMBE 1

WYCOMBE ARE OFF-TARGET

WALTHAMSTOW 3 Wycombe 1
WYCOMBE had only themselves to blame for this Isthmian League defeat. They made a great effort in the closing stages but vital chances were wasted.

Wycombe were 3—0 with 10 minutes to go when right-back Beck moved upfield as part of the visitors' rally. A pass from outside-right Worley enabled Beck to beat Walthamstow goalkeeper McGuire from 35 yards.

Wycombe might have cut Walthamstow's lead still further but a shot from right-half Thomas a few minutes later went just over the bar.

Walthamstow went ahead after two minutes when Lewis rounded off a fine move between Groves and Minall. It was Minall who scored Walthamstow's second, following a Harvey pass from a Lewis cross.

Left half Edwards cashed in on some slack Wycombe marking to crack home the third goal.